

# SPORT FISHING

## *Emergency Order*

ALASKA DEPARTMENT  
OF FISH & GAME

Under Authority of AS 16.05.060

**Emergency Order No.** 3-KS-V-01-20

**Issued at:** Fairbanks, Thursday,  
April 2, 2020.

**Effective Date:** 12:01 a.m. Friday, May 1, 2020.

**Expiration Date:** 11:59 p.m. Thursday,  
June 11, 2020, unless superseded by  
subsequent emergency order.

**EXPLANATION:**

This emergency order closes the Kuskokwim River drainage (excluding Kuskokwim Bay drainages) to sport fishing for king salmon from May 1 through June 11. In addition, only one unbaited, single-hook, artificial lure may be used in the Kuskokwim–Goodnews Area.

All king salmon caught incidentally in the Kuskokwim River drainage while fishing for other species may not be removed from the water and must be released immediately.

**REGULATION:**

The provisions of 5 AAC 71.010. (c)(3)(A) and (c)(3)(B) are superseded, and (c)(10) and (d)(1)(G) are added by this emergency order. Under this emergency order, the following provisions are effective 12:01 a.m. Friday, May 1 through 11:59 p.m. Thursday, June 11, 2020:

**5 AAC 71.010. Seasons and bag, possession, annual, and size limits for the Kuskokwim–Goodnews Area.**

(c)(3)(A) sport fishing for king salmon is closed; king salmon may not be taken or possessed;

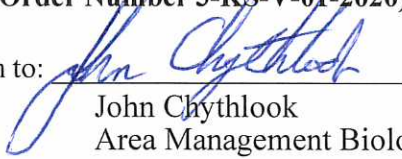
(c)(3)(B) the bag and possession limit for pink, sockeye, chum, and coho salmon is three fish, with no size limit; however, the aggregate daily bag and possession limit of all salmon species may not exceed three salmon;

(c)(10) in the Kuskokwim River drainage, sport fishing for king salmon is closed; king salmon may not be taken or possessed.

(d)(1)(G) only one unbaited, single-hook, artificial lure may be used in the remainder of the Kuskokwim – Goodnews Area not specified in (d)(1)(A–F).

Douglas Vincent-Lang  
Commissioner

By delegation to:

  
John Chythlook  
Area Management Biologist**JUSTIFICATION:**

The 2020 Kuskokwim River drainage king salmon forecast of 193,000 – 261,000 indicates that the Kuskokwim River king salmon run in 2020 may be greater than the 2019 run. In 2019, the estimated total run for Kuskokwim River king salmon was 226,987 and the spawning escapement was 188,483. In 2019, the drainagewide escapement goal of 65,000 – 120,000 was exceeded, however, there were substantial closures of the subsistence fishery.

The Kuskokwim River Salmon Management Plan (5 AAC 7.365) mandates that when the escapement goal is projected within the drainagewide escapement goal range the sport and commercial fisheries are closed through June 11. If the 2020 run materializes as expected, even at the lower end of the outlook, there is enough potential surplus for a full subsistence harvest (i.e., 110,000 fish) and achieving the midpoint of the drainagewide escapement goal (i.e., 92,500 fish).

Based on the prescription of the management plan and forecast a total closure of sport fishing for king salmon in the Kuskokwim River drainage and the prohibition of bait and multiple hooks is warranted. This may be relaxed or extended depending on run strength indicators prior to June 12.

**DISTRIBUTION:**

The distribution list for this emergency order is on file at the Region III Office of the Alaska Department of Fish and Game, Division of Sport Fish, 1300 College Road, Fairbanks, AK 99701, (907) 459-7207.